

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Schaldach, et al.

Examiner:

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Art Unit:

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Under 37 CFR 1.97

This Information Disclosure Statement is filed with the application papers in the case, so it is timely filed without payment of a fee. 37 CFR §1.97(b).

The filing of this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed as a representation that a search has been made (37 CFR §1.56(g)), an admission that the information cited is, or is considered to be, material to patentability or that no other material information exists.

The filing of this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed as an admission against interest in any manner. Notice of January 9, 1992, 1135 O.G. 13, at 25.

This Information Disclosure Statement is made to comply with the duty of candor imposed on all individuals associated with the filing or prosecution of this application, as defined by 37 CFR §1.56(c).

Six (6) U.S. patents and ten (10) foreign patent documents are listed on the attached one (1) sheet of Form PTO/SB/08A which is made a part hereof. A copy of each document is enclosed. Also enclosed, but not listed on the form, is a copy of a search report dated 7 February 2001 from the German Patent Office on German application 100 50 970.3, on which this US application claims priority.

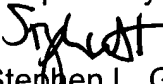
The German search report is in the German language, but it uses the international conventions for citation of prior art.

References AB, BA, BD, and BF through BJ are specifically cited in the German search report. For the foreign patent documents not in English, English language family members are provided as follows: Reference AA is an English language family member of reference BF, reference AC is an English language family member of reference BG; reference AD is an English language family member of reference BE, reference AE is an English language family member of reference BJ, and reference AF is an English language family member of reference BI. In this manner, all cited documents are presented in English.

Reference BJ is cited at paragraph [0004].

The foregoing Information Disclosure Statement is based upon the information known to the inventor or contained in the undersigned attorney's file as of the filing date of this statement and is inclusive of the best information known to each of the undersigned at that date. Prompt consideration of the Information Disclosure Statement and the references by the Examiner is earnestly requested.

Respectfully submitted,


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